

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 107383 TOSEC 040180
ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA:SACORNWELL:SAC
APPROVED BY PA/M:CFREEMAN
S/S - SGOLDSMITH
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
PA, S/S, S/PRS

-----112020Z 026201 /64
O 111950Z MAY 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 107383 TOSEC 040180

FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL DATED MAY
11 HEADED 'ON THE MIDEAST ROAD.'

2. SYRIA'S PRESIDENT ASSAD IS THE LATEST MIDDLE EAST LEADER
MR. CARTER HAS SEEN IN HIS DEEPENING QUEST FOR A REGIONAL
SETTLEMENT. AS IN THE EARLIER SESSIONS, THE VIBRATIONS
WERE PLEASANT ENOUGH: EACH FOREIGN LEADER WHO SEES THE
PRESIDENT HOPES TO IMPRESS HIM WITH HIS EARNESTNESS AND
SINCERITY, AND IT SUITS MR. CARTER IN THIS INTRODUCTORY
P RIOD TO SMILE 0ACK. IF THERE HAS DEVELOPED ANY CHANGE
OF POSITION OR ATTITUDE SUFFICIENT TO PUT ADVERSARIES WITIN
DIPLOMATIC HAILING DISTANCE, HOWEVER, IT IS A WELL-KEPT
SECRET. ISRAEL INSISTS IT WON'T YIELD THE MEASURE OF TERRI-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 107383 TOSEC 040180

TORY, AND THE ARABS THE MEASURE OF NEIGHBORLY PEACE, THAT
THE OTHER PARTY DEMANDS. ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS STILL
SEEM REMOTE FROM MUTUAL RECOGNITION. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS

ONE MORE ARAB (SAUDI ARABIAN PRINCE FAHD) AND ONE MORE
ISRAELI (THE WINNER OF NEXT SUNDAY'S ELECTIONS) ON HIS GUEST
LIST. THEN WHAT DOES HE DO?

3. THE CONVENTIONAL ANSWER IS: GENEVA. THE IDEA OF CONVENING A GENERAL MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE, IN WHICH A PLACE FOR THE PALESTINIANS WOULD BE FOUND, HAS GOTTEN A CERTAIN GRIP ON THE POPULAR IF NOT THE DIPLOMATIC IMAGINATION. BUT THERE IS NO MAGIC IN GENEVA OR IN ANY OTHER SINGLE DIPLOMATIC FORMAT. ON THE CONTRARY, THERE IS A SERIOUS DANGER--FORTUNATELY, ONE RECOGNIZED BY MOST OF THE MIDEAST PARTIES--IN CALLING FOR A CONFERENCE WHOSE OUTCOME HAS NOT BEEN CAREFULLY WORKED OUT IN ADVANCE. THIS HOLDS WHETHER THE GOAL IS A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT, OR THE DESIGNATION OF WORKING PARTIES ON SUB-ISSUES, OR THE NEGOTIATION OF FURTHER DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS INVOLVING ISRAEL AND SYRIA OR EGYPT, OR NEW APPROACHES ON THE WEST BANK, OR WHATEVER.

4. IN FACT, THE FORMAT AND EVEN THE TIMETABLE ARE LESS IMPORTANT THAN THE ATTITUDE TAKEN BY WASHINGTON. CLEARLY, THE ARABS, WIELDING THE OIL WEAPON AND THE THREAT OF WAR, WANT THE UNITED STATES TO DELIVER THEIR LOST TERRITORY AND A PALESTINIAN STATE WITHOUT ASKING THEM TO MAKE COMPENSATING POLITICAL CONCESSIONS TO ISRAEL. BUT THIS WOULD MAKE A MOCKERY OF AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP FOR ISRAEL AND POSSIBLY SET THE STAGE FOR THE NEXT WAR. MR. CARTER HAS WISELY REFUSED TO GO DOWN THIS PATH. THE ISRAELIS HAVE NO COMPARABLE LEVERAGE ON THE UNITED STATES. THEY ARE, FURTHERMORE, UNIQUELY DEPENDENT ON WASHINGTON AND, THEREFORE, UNIQUELY VULNERABLE TO AMERICAN PRESSURE. BUT, AGAIN TO HIS CREDIT, MR. CARTER HAS REJECTED ISRAEL'S

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 107383 TOSEC 040180

DEMANDS FOR SUPPORT FOR ITS TERRITORIAL OBJECTIVES AND, THAT LACKING, IN EFFECT FOR A LONG AMERICAN-SUBSIDIZED PAUSE IN THE BARGAINING. THE AMERICAN INTEREST IN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD, AND IN MIDEAST PEACE, RULES OUT SUCH A COURSE.

5. WE DON'T PRETEND TO KNOW HOW TO PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER. JUDGMENT ON TACTICS MUST REST IN THE HANDS OF THOSE AMERICAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE BEEN TALKING IN CONFIDENCE WITH THE ISRAELI AND ARAB LEADERS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE BASIC CARTER STANCE--TO OFFER EACH OF THE PARTIES SATISFACTION OF ITS LEGITIMATE AIMS, ON CONDITION THAT EACH GRANTS SIMILAR SATISFACTION TO ITS ADVERSARY--IS THE ONLY SOUND BASIS ON WHICH A SETTLEMENT CAN BE SOUGHT. WE ARE NOT SO MUCH DISMAYED THAT MR. CARTER HAS YET TO CRACK THE MIDEAST NUT AS WE ARE PERSUADED THAT HE IS GOING ABOUT IT IN THE RIGHT WAY. (END TEXT) CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE107383
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SACORNWELL:SAC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770166-0400
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770568/aaaacgwq.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 246a3096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2558537
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, PGOV, US, SY, XF, WASHINGTON POST, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (CARTER, JIMMY), (ASSAD, HAFIZ AL)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/246a3096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009